

Torrance, California
February 26, 1952

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 26, 1952, in the Council Chamber of the City Hall at 8:00 p.m., Mayor Haggard presiding.

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Bartlett were:
COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale, Karlow, Spelman and Haggard. Also present were City Attorney Hall and City Manager Stevens.

All persons present participated in the salute to our Flag.

As first order of business, Councilman Spelman moved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 13th be approved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Karlow, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The Mayor announced the time had arrived for the opening of bids for a billing machine for the Water Department and Clerk Bartlett opened and read the following bids:

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>LIST</u>	<u>GOVT. DISC.</u>	<u>SALES TAX</u>	<u>NET</u>
Burroughs	\$2,433.00	\$ 243.30	\$ 76.64	\$2,266.34
Underwood	3,208.00	320.80	86.62	2,973.82
"	2,693.00	269.30	72.71	2,496.41
Monroe	1,920.00		57.60	1,977.60
"	1,165.50		34.97	1,200.47
National Cash Reg.	4,920.00		147.60	5,067.60
" " "	3,840.00		115.20	3,955.20

Councilman Karlow moved the bids be referred to the City Manager for his recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

The Mayor announced the time had arrived for the hearing on the assessments for North Torrance Sewer District No. 1 and Clerk Bartlett presented affidavits as to mailing, posting and publication. Councilman Blount moved the affidavits be received and filed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The Mayor announced that this was the time and place fixed for the hearing of appeals from or objections to any act or determination of the Street Superintendent or Engineer, or the quality of work performed, or the legality of additions to or omissions from the contract, or the correctness of the assessment or diagram, and asked if any written protests had been filed. There being none, he called for oral protests from the floor. There being none, Councilman Blount moved the hearing be declared closed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The City Engineer presented, and Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2246

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, CONFIRMING THE ASSESSMENT LEVIED UPON THE LAND WITHIN THE NORTH TORRANCE SEWER DISTRICT NO. 1 TO PAY THE COSTS OF THE IMPROVEMENT OF REGINA AVENUE AND CERTAIN OTHER STREETS AND INTERSECTIONS IN THE NORTH TORRANCE SEWER DISTRICT NO. 1 BY THE CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION THEREIN OF A SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM.

Councilman Blount moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Blount moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2246. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The Mayor announced the time had arrived for hearing on the filing of the Assessment Diagram for Seaside Heights Sewer District. The City Clerk presented affidavit of publication of Notice of Award of Contract. Councilman Spelman moved that it be received and filed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The Clerk presented the Assessment Diagram and Councilman Spelman moved it be received and filed. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried by unanimous roll call vote. The Council studied the diagram and finding it accurate and satisfactory in all particulars, made no suggestions for changes.

The City Engineer presented, and Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2247

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE DIAGRAM OF THE PROPERTY BENEFITED BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM IN THE SEASIDE HEIGHTS SEWER DISTRICT IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Karlow moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Karlow moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2247. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk Bartlett read the following:

Recommendation from City Clerk Bartlett that I. J. Hallanger be appointed, temporarily, as License Clerk, effective March 1, 1952, at a salary of \$251.00 per month plus cost-of-living increase. Councilman Drale so moved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Karlow, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from Mrs. Walter A. Schaefer, 2806 Gramercy, addressed to the Council and Chief Stroh, requesting a painted pedestrian crosswalk on the corner of Gramercy and Sepulveda, with a "stand-up" sign to protect children going to school and to the park. Her letter was supplemented with 40 other signatures. Councilman Karlow asked the Chief of Police for his suggestions and he recommended a "cautionary signal" but no traffic control as there now are "stop signs" within a block or two each way of the intersection under discussion. Councilman Karlow moved the Council concur in the recommendation of Chief Stroh. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from Truman Browne, president of Truman Enterprises, Inc., advising that Lot 42, Tract 17371, would be paved and used exclusively for off-street parking. City Manager Stevens reviewed the circumstances of the case, No. 228, and stated that a business building was to be erected on Lot 43 and the Planning Commission had recommended the off-street parking on Lot 42. Councilman Karlow read from the Planning Commission file its approval of Tract 17371 pending the paving of Lot 42 to be used exclusively for off-street parking and moved the Council concur in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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Letter from Pacific Hills Home Owners, Inc., requesting the Council require the fencing of the oil sump on Tract 9765, Parcel 5. Councilman Karlow moved the Council concur in the recommendation contained in the letter but asked that a clarification be made as to what the residents meant by fencing -- whether they meant the entire pit or the entrance side. Mr. Langston, one of the signers of the letter, spoke from the audience at some length, stating they felt the entire sump should be fenced as children were always "exploring" the hills and that if a child fell into the pit it would be almost impossible for him to get out. Further discussion followed, with Councilman Karlow asking the City Attorney if the State law required fencing. Mr. Hall's reply was in the negative and he suggested the Council take what action it wished in this regard, and that if our ordinance didn't "hold water", it could be amended. He stated he thought the motion should direct that this fencing be installed at the earliest practicable date and that the matter be referred to him insofar as enforcement is concerned. Councilman Drale moved that the entire pit be completely fenced with a 6' cyclone fence. Motion, seconded by Councilman Karlow, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Karlow stated there was another fencing problem in the same area and called on Mr. Wm. Cameron, of 3040 Winlock Road, who commented on the gravel pit, also owned by Mr. Senness, next to the oil sump. At some length he stated he felt there was a definite violation of the zoning variance granted Mr. Senness and that the residents of the area would like to see the Council take some action which would require the gravel company to "cover up the mess they had made with dirt" and to protect the homes; also, that they be forced to stay inside their lines or close up their operation. He then presented the Council with a map of the area.

Councilman Karlow stated that he had been in the City Hall last week and with the assistance of the Assistant Engineer had drawn an overlay map, and it very definitely appeared to him that the water settling basin was outside of the northerly boundary of the variance. He felt there was a definite violation of the variance as this property is not included in the variance and is in an R-1 Zone. He asked Mr. Cameron to restate his recommendation as to their desires in connection with the matter.

Mr. Cameron replied that they all knew the gravel pit was there when they bought their homes, and did not wish the Council to pursue any action to deny them their license to operate. He stated they would like to see them operate as they originally intended when they brought their variance before the Planning Commission; that they clean up the mess they have made by covering it with dirt; that the ditch be filled; and the water basin removed to their own property.

Councilman Drale asked if there was a technical defect in the variance on which the Council could "hang its hat", or something the City could do to enforce the original variance. The City Attorney pointed out that Mr. Cameron had stated the settling basin was actually a part of the gravel pit operation and lies outside the 50-acre area on which the permit was granted, and that it would appear that their was a very definite violation of the variance. He stated that would leave it open as to the Council's action -- either that the entire operation be shut down or, in the alternative, that they grant the recommendations of Mr. Cameron.

Mayor Haggard stated if there was a violation of the variance, he felt the variance should be cancelled and that the City Attorney take the necessary action. Councilman Drale so moved.

The City Attorney advised there would be some costs involved and Mayor Haggard replied that he did not think the City would be above damages if something should happen on this property if they hadn't lived up to the variance, and that he felt there was a certain responsibility on the part of the City.

Councilman Karlow stated he thought the motion too general. Councilman Blount stated that Mr. Cameron had listed several things which would satisfy the people in the area but had not asked for any drastic step, and stated he felt the Council should consider any action carefully before getting involved in a long drawn-out lawsuit. Mayor Haggard replied that he didn't think there was anything the Council could do but prosecute the action. Councilman Drale stated there have been several violations of the zoning ordinance and that the City had never enforced any of them, and that he thought these people should be held to their original variance. Councilman Blount replied that he would present several violations of variances in the dairy industry at the next meeting and hoped the Council would remember

its comments in this regard. Mayor Haggard stated that if variances were complied with, the Council had no grievance, but if a variance is exceeded the Council should not condone it. Councilman Spelman stated that, in his opinion, the whole situation should be checked from a legal standpoint and where zone variances have been violated, they should be prosecuted. At Mr. Cameron's inquiry, City Attorney Hall briefly outlined what would constitute their damage lawsuit against the gravel pit operators.

Motion was seconded by Councilman Karlow and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale, after a brief discussion, moved the Council, on all future cases of petition for variance or change of zone, be supplied with a "definite communication from the Planning Commission supplying the Council with a copy of the original petitions filed with the Commission". Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At 9:05 p.m., Mayor Haggard declared a brief recess. Meeting reconvened at 9:10.

Copy of a letter addressed to K. Sande Senness, from State of California Regional Water Pollution Control Board No. 4, relative to the requirements for the operation of his South Torrance Dump. Councilman Drale moved the letter be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Letter from the City Clerk of Burbank transmitting a copy of Burbank's Resolution No. 8349 opposing the proposal of the County Supervisors Ass'n for a 4% State Sales Tax. Councilman Drale moved that the Council concur in their action and that the City Attorney prepare a similar protest. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Application by Jos. Kirsch, 1135 S. Citrus Street, Los Angeles, for permit to operate a "Jewelry and Miscellaneous Loan Office" at 1271 Sartori Avenue. Councilman Blount moved the communication be held over for the next regular meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Request from the Torrance Chapter of the American Red Cross for use of the Auditorium on March 3rd, June 2nd and October 6th for the Blood Bank. Councilman Spelman moved the request be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Request from W. E. Bowen, on behalf of Torrance Area Youth Band, for permission to conduct a small carnival at the corner of Cravens and Engracia from May 7th through the 11th. Councilman Drale moved the request be granted. Motion was seconded by Councilman Spelman, City Manager Stevens suggested that on all such requests, a "clean-up deposit" be required in the sum of \$50 which would be refunded if the area were properly cleaned up after the carnival. Motion was so amended and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Request from E. M. Whelan for refund of his business license fee as the business had been sold and license fee paid by new owner. City Clerk Bartlett recommended the refund be made. Councilman Drale so moved. Motion seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from the Board of Education inquiring as to the possibility of getting a foot-bridge across the drainage ditch on Casimir Ave. Councilman Drale moved the communication be referred to the City Engineer and Traffic Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried.

Letter from the Board of Education encouraging the completion of sidewalks on major arteries and through streets for the convenience and safety of school children. Councilman Drale moved the communication be referred to the Traffic Commission. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

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Letter from the Board of Education inquiring as to the possibility of having an oil well fenced in when it is near a school. City Attorney Hall advised that the only way the City could force such a measure would be to amend its ordinance. Councilman Karlow, after a very brief discussion by the Councilmen, moved the communication be referred to the City Manager for reply. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Letter from Property Management Corp. advising it could not put in sidewalks, curbs and gutters, as required by the City, until street grades have been established by the Division of Highways. City Manager Stevens advised the Council that he had inquired as to the State's progress in establishing the grades and that they were working on it, but as yet the grades are not available. Councilman Drale moved the letter be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Karlow, carried with Councilman Blount casting a "NO" vote. Councilman Blount then moved the City Attorney be instructed to inform the bonding company that Property Management is not released from its bond and that we are waiting further developments from the state, and that they would be kept advised. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Letter from Assistant to City Engineer Patrick resubmitting map of Tract 15574 for approval. City Manager Stevens explained this action was necessary, this being a reversion to acreage of a portion of Tract 15757, because of the City's recent vacation of certain streets and alleys in the Tract, and recommended approval. Councilman Blount moved the Council concur in the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Recommendations of City Manager:

PERSONNEL:

1. That Paul Hughes be reemployed as a Mechanic, effective February 19, 1952, at the compensation set forth as the first step for the classification.
2. That Claude Barton be reemployed as a Bus Operator, effective February 11, 1952, at the compensation set forth as the fifth step for the classification.
3. That the request of Nelson Hawks, Bus Operator, for a 60-day sick leave, without pay, be approved.

Councilman Spelman moved the Council concur in the recommendations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROPRIATIONS:

1. To Torrance Chamber of Commerce for publicity and advertising during the quarter October, November and December, 1951, the sum of \$1,250.00 (A Budget Item)
2. For re-roofing portion of City Hall, the sum of \$600.00.
3. Award of contract to Addressograph-Multigraph Corporation for purchase of addressing machine for Water Department, in the amount of \$2,629.59.
4. That the bid of Don Benzley, for the purchase of Crown Bus No. 404, less tires, in the amount of \$1,000.00, be accepted as the best offer obtained for the bus.

Councilman Spelman moved the Council concur in the recommendations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

TRAFFIC CONTROL:

1. Stop Signs: One-Way Stops:
 - (a) For East-bound traffic on 228th St. at Martha St.
 - (b) For North-bound traffic on Osage Ave. at Redondo Beach Blvd.

- (c) For North-bound traffic on Amie St. at Redondo Beach Blvd.
- (d) For Southeast-bound traffic on Sartori Ave. at Arlington Ave.

Two-Way Stops:

- (a) At 190th St. at main entrance to General Petroleum plant.

Four-Way Stops:

- (a) At Pennsylvania Ave. and 239th St.
- (b) At Sonoma St. and Greenwood Avenue

2. One-Way Traffic:

That one-way traffic control be established on the north and south sections of Plaza del Amo from Cabrillo Ave. to Abalone Ave.

Councilman Karlow moved the Council concur in the recommendations. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Clerk Bartlett read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2248

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO ORDER THE CANCELLATION OF DELINQUENT BOND TAXES ON CERTAIN PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY THE CITY OF TORRANCE FOR PUBLIC USE.

Councilman Draile moved the Council dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Karlow, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2248. Motion, seconded by Councilman Draile, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 583

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 523 BY PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN SALARY INCREASES FOR POSITIONS IN THE CLASSIFIED SERVICE DUE TO THE INCREASED COST OF LIVING.

City Attorney Hall advised the Council one minor change had been made since submitting the ordinance for their study in that, for accounting purposes, all bonuses calculated on the 5% basis would be paid at the next higher dollar amount rather than in odd cents. Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the urgency ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Draile, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of urgency Ordinance No. 583 at its first and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Draile, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 584

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 523 BY MAKING SALARY CHANGES IN CERTAIN POSITIONS WITHIN THE CLASSIFIED SERVICE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Karlow, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Spelman moved for the adoption of urgency Ordinance No. 584. Motion, seconded by Councilman Draile, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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ORDINANCE NO. 585

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE REGULATING PAWN BROKERS AND PROVIDING
A PENALTY FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF.

Councilman Karlow moved to dispense with further reading of urgency Ordinance No. 585. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, was defeated by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Karlow, Spelman and Haggard. NAYS: COUNCILMEN: Drale. Councilman Drale stated he had not yet had an opportunity to study the ordinance. City Attorney Hall stated the urgency, as set forth in Section 17 of the Ordinance, could be deleted, and he was so instructed. Councilman Drale then changed his vote to "YES". Councilman Karlow moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 585 at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Stevens reported the official census was now 31,847 and that the figures had been sent to Sacramento and the Division of Highways in the hope that Torrance would receive credit on the April-May-June quarter.

Councilman Drale stated there was an abandoned sump at 233rd and Pennsylvania which needs to be cleaned up and fenced and moved the matter be referred to the City Attorney. Motion, seconded by Councilman Karlow, carried.

Councilman Spelman commented on the many accidents recently on Pacific Coast Highway between Seaside Ranchos and Hollywood Riviera. At his request, Chief Stroh suggested possibly the Highway Commission would mark a lane in the center with an island where you would be safe to make a left-hand turn. Discussion followed and it was suggested the City Manager write the Highway Commission immediately offering this solution to our problem and, if necessary, the Council would follow his action with a resolution.

Mayor Haggard moved the Traffic Commission check the parking situation on Post Ave. and El Prado, caused by people at the High School. Chief Stroh stated most of the parking problem was caused by pupils rather than the teachers, and that the only way to stop them from leaving their cars all day in front of residences would be to post two-hour parking signs. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the Board of Education to ascertain whether or not they would furnish a parking lot for the students.

A gentlemen from the audience asked what the City was going to do about the water on Earl Street. The City Manager replied there was nothing the City could do as there was no place to pump the water, and that a street could not be cut through until easements had been secured from all property owners.

There being no further business, Councilman Spelman moved all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Karlow, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At 10:05 p.m., on motion of Councilman Blount, seconded by Councilman Spelman, and duly carried, meeting adjourned.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE